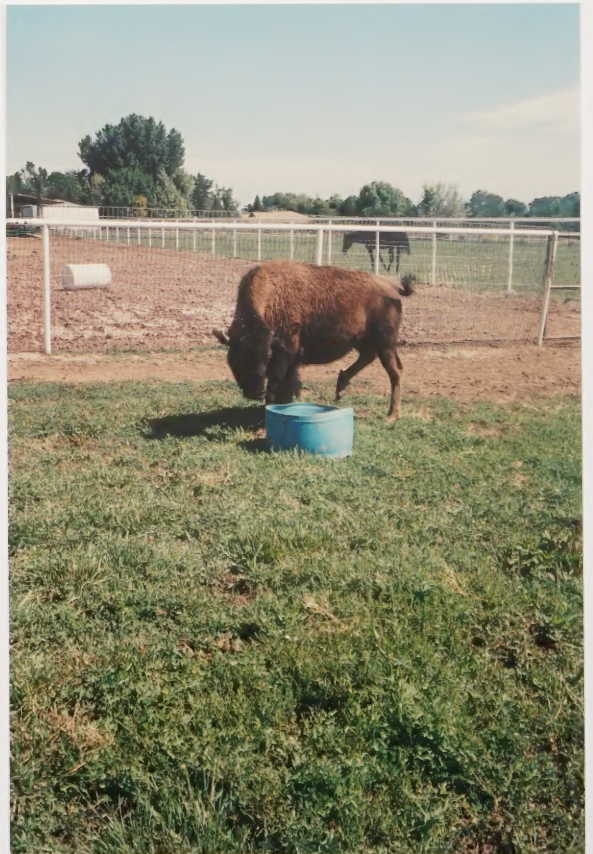




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GOOD, BAD DRUG

Pain killer wonder drug
for some, abused
narcotic for others

DIMENSION • 88

New Mexico & The West

bull market for BUFFALO

Pushed by Indian tradition and a growing demand for meat, herds thrive again on the Plains.

Story by LESLIE LINTHICUM

Photographs by RICHARD PIPES
Of the Journal

The ruts of the Santa Fe Trail roll across the grassland in northeast New Mexico, conjuring up pictures of wranglers and wagon trains — the beginning of the end of the real wild West.

The biggest, shaggiest, orneriest victim was the buffalo.

There was a time when brown buffalo in herds of thousands dotted the green plains in the northeast corner of the state. By the dawn of the 20th century, thanks to the appetites of pioneers, the success of commercial hunters and the westward surge of cattle ranchers, the buffalo were pretty much gone.

Now they are back — in a big way — on the plains where they used to roam.

Upwards of 6,000 buffalo are kept in about two dozen herds throughout New Mexico today. And many are clustered in Mora, Colfax, Union and Taos counties — their traditional stomping grounds.

Ranchers are adding buffalo to their cattle operations — or even going completely with buffalo — to take advantage of a growing market for low-fat, specialty meats. Indian pueblos are developing their own herds to reintroduce the spiritual tradition of the buffalo to their members.

Today's buffalo owners are driven by economics and by history: You can make more money selling buffalo meat than beef and in the process bring back an evocative piece of the West.

Big land, big animals

From I-25 outside Springer, drivers can spot huge clots of buffalo grazing on the edges of Ted Turner's Vermejo Park Ranch. Four other buffalo herds munch and nap in the green grass of more modest spreads nearby.

From N.M. 120 in Mora County, drivers can often spot the 150 buffalo on Harold Daniel's Wagon Mound ranch. At first glance, the animals look like big boulders against the grass. Then they slowly move across the pasture, flicking their thick tails or sending up clouds of dust as they roll in the dirt to slough the wool off their backs.

Screen out the highway signs and the microwave tower and it could be a scene from 500 years ago.

"They're at home," said Daniels, whose family has raised cattle in these parts for 200 years.

Daniels never intended to get into the buffalo business. But his wife's family had always kept a few buffalo cows on their ranch. It was a hobby, not a business.

Daniels started working with the



A SYMBOL RETURNS: The shaggy, horned heads of buffalo are back on the plains of New Mexico — and about 6,000 strong. Ranchers are bringing back the bearded beasts, valued for their lean meat. These buffalo enjoy green grass and open spaces on a ranch near Wagon Mound.

buffalo and was mightily impressed.

"They're extremely strong and extremely fast," said Daniels. "They're a lot easier on the country than a cow. They're much, much smarter. There's no comparison."

And they look good.

The Santa Fe Trail ran right through the Daniels ranch, and he and his wife live in an old stagecoach station. They are history buffs and are committed to restoring their range with historical accuracy. Buffalo fit the picture perfectly.

From the original four cows and a bull, Daniels has built the herd to about 150 and has gotten into all aspects of the buffalo business. He ships 2-year-old bulls to a meat packer in Raton, sells mother cows or calves to ranchers interested in building their own herds and sells buffalo "hunts."

Beefy economics

Cattle remain Daniels' stock in trade, but he likes the buffalo business. First, buffalo move around more when they eat and are easier on the grass.

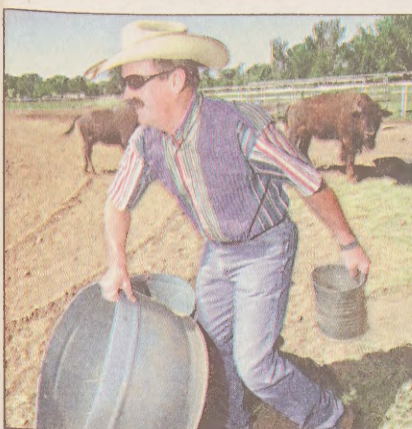
Second, you can stock more buffalo on a ranch than you can cattle.

A mature animal, weighing 1,500 to 2,000 pounds, yields more than half that weight in meat after butchering. And buffalo meat sells for about twice what beef does.

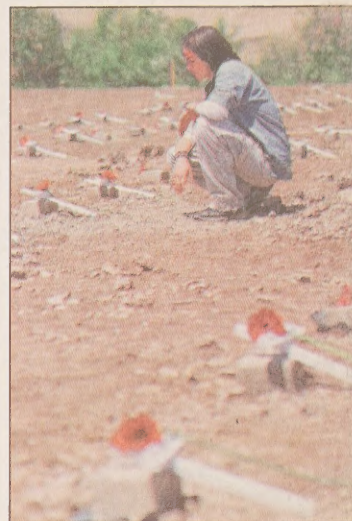
Coyotes and other predators won't bother buffalo, and the animals are hardy and need less doctoring than cattle.

Additionally, trophy hunters will pay \$2,500 to \$3,000 to drive onto Daniels'

See **BULL MARKET** on **PAGE B4**



FEEDING TIME: Monte Fastnacht brings grain to the five buffalo he keeps outside his Bosque Farms home. He has 100 buffalo on a ranch in South Dakota and another 30 outside Estancia.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

MEDITATION: Ken Scott of Nevada City, Calif., pays his respects at the graves of suspected undocumented immigrants.

Migration Issue Turns To Safety

U.S., Mexico Diverge
On Possible Answers

BY PAULINE ARRILLAGA
The Associated Press

Along the San Diego border in the early 1990s, illegal immigrants gathered in droves awaiting the chance to head north. They dashed into traffic on Interstate 5, hoping to skirt through alive and free. On the Mexican side there were other dangers: armed bandits, rapes and robberies.

Then came the U.S. agents, hundreds of them lined shoulder to shoulder in a human wall to stop migration. And the fences. And the lighting. And the night scopes and electronic sensors.

In 1993, the U.S. Border Patrol apprehended 551,689 illegal immigrants in its San Diego sector. Last year the number was 151,681.

For some, San Diego is the epitome of a more orderly border. Mexico sees it as something else: Another example of the United States treating the symptom, not the problem.

Even before 14 migrants died in the Arizona desert last month, the Bush administration adopted a new moniker for its efforts to curb illegal immigration: create a "safe and orderly" border.

But what does that mean?

In the United States, enforcement has been the answer. But extra manpower in places like San Diego has proved little more than a temporary roadblock, prompting migrants to seek detours across more treacherous deserts and mountains.

Even as apprehensions fall in towns where enforcement has been heightened, the numbers for the entire U.S.-Mexico border have generally increased this past decade. In fact, last year's 1,643,679 apprehensions exceeded the previous record set in 1986 by 27,835. That year, Congress passed legislation granting amnesty to 2.7 million illegal immigrants.

For all that are caught, thousands more make it across and several hundred die trying — deterred not by the law or the risks.

Politicians and activists on both sides of

See **DEBATE** on **PAGE B4**

At 56, Singer Rod Stewart Still Wears It Well



ROBERTO ROSALES/JOURNAL

ABSOLUTELY LIVE: Rod Stewart performs before a crowd of 10,750 Saturday at Journal Pavilion.

■ Many in the almost full house of 10,750 stood and sang along on a soulful version of 'Maggie May'

BY LEANNE POTTS
Journal Staff Writer

He's not Rod the Mod, Rod the Bod or, mercifully, Disco Rod anymore.

Rod Stewart has become Rod the Showman Who's Flashy But Acts His Age. With a color-coordinated set, three 30-foot video screens and four costume changes, the 56-year-old Stewart is the new Liberace. He delivered an impressive show Saturday night at Journal Pavilion that had lots of eye candy and captured the romantic bravura of his music.

After an opening video montage of Rod through the years, Stewart sang a gorgeous version of "Handbags and Gladrags," following it with "First Cut Is The Deepest" and "Reason To Believe."

A year ago a cancerous lump in his throat left him temporarily unable to sing and his career in question, but Stewart's voice was in fine form Saturday night. He treat-

Wisely, Rod Stewart mostly steered clear of his disco-era horrors and hormone anthems and played songs from his 30-year repertoire a man in his 50s could sing with conviction.

ed it gently for the first part of the two-hour show, but by the end of the show his voice was stretching to the higher ranges on songs like the '80s hit "Young Turks."

Given his health problems, Stewart looked surprisingly tan and lean. He also looked surprisingly dignified.

He's traded his spandex for sport coats, a pistachio green one at the show's start, a hot pink one midway through and a shimmery burgundy

REVIEW

and gold suit after the intermission. He closed the show in a little blue number.

Wisely, Stewart mostly steered clear of his disco-era horrors and hormone anthems and played songs from his 30-year repertoire a man in his 50s could sing with conviction. The exception was a draggy version of "Some Guys Have All the Luck" that was inexplicably augmented with a 40-foot video screen shot of a top heavy babe in a wet bikini.

But he got back on track with a blues-tinged version of "You Wear It Well" accompanied by pictures of Stewart from his London Mod days on the big video screen and a rocking "Cigarettes and Alcohol."

Many in the almost full house of 10,750 stood and sang along on a soulful version of "Maggie May," his 1971 smash hit.

At one point in the show a fan

tossed a cowboy hat on the stage and Rod popped it atop his spiky hair.

"Thank you very much for that cowboy 'at,'" he said in his Andy Capp accent.

Stewart didn't annoy fans by playing much from his latest release, "Human," which made a brief appearance in the lower echelons of the Billboard charts earlier this year. Instead he gave them his greatest hits from decades past: "Infatuation," "Downtown Train," the catchy "Sailing," "Have I Told You Lately" and the smarmy "Tonight's The Night."

He still pranced the stage some but he did few of his trademark microphone stand twirls. Late in the show, in the middle of (ironically) "Forever Young," he confidently tossed the mic stand into the air. It nearly hit him in the head when it came back down.

OK, so he's not Rod the Coordinat-

ed.

EDITORIALS

No Concealed Issues
For City Candidates

At least one Albuquerque city councilor would feel more secure slipping the issue out of sight under his jacket, but in politics — particularly in an election year — there is no concealed carry.

The issue is a new state law under which citizens can apply for a permit to carry a concealed handgun. Though 43 other states allow it, carrying concealed guns remains controversial in New Mexico. It is so controversial that lawmakers added an amendment that passes the hot potato around officialdom.

The Albuquerque City Council and counterparts in municipalities around the state catch the hot potato as a result of an amendment providing local option to forbid the practice. And after some city or village follows through and declares a demilitarized zone, the hot potato almost automatically gets tossed to the state Supreme Court.

What puts the justices in line for the pass is a phrase in the New Mexico Constitution: "No municipality or county shall regulate, in any way, an incident of the right to keep and bear arms."

Some shoulder-holster owner in whichever town that enacts the ban first will ask the court to determine whether the Legislature can empower local government to regulate how handguns may be carried. But the court needn't necessarily stop at voiding local bans on concealed weapons; it could overturn the entire concealed carry law.

That would take a while, and it will be a while before the state issues any concealed-carry permits — Jan. 1, 2002. So there's no rush to catch such a sure-fire controversy, according to Councilor Tim Kline, who heads the committee that would consider the matter before it goes to the full council.

"We're coming out of a baseball issue, a budget issue, a redistricting issue. ... The council is tired. ... They're snipping at each other at meetings. We've got to slow down a little bit and regroup and calm people down. I know this is going to be another issue where there will be 300 people at committee meetings."

But Mayor Jim Baca wants to open fire now, which means voters would have time to factor council and mayoral candidates' gun positions into their decisions in this fall's city election. He's right.

The political system works best when campaigns give voters an idea of how prospective leaders handle themselves under fire. Instead of dodging issues that help differentiate and define the candidates for voters, councilors, like the mayor, should take clear stands on the gun ban.

Volunteers Make City
Better Place To Live

Volunteers. They contribute to the quality of life in any society.

In Albuquerque, they contribute a lot. The city Department of Senior Affairs says 5,000 senior volunteers provided about 400,000 hours of volunteer work this past year, saving the city more than \$2 million. And those figures reflect only senior citizen volunteers.

About 1,000 of those volunteers were recognized this past week with a breakfast. That celebration of their efforts is a small token compared to the tremendous good these volunteers have done for city residents.

Some volunteers drive seniors to the grocery store or doctor, taking only a tax deduction and word of thanks in return. Some teach classes in what they know, like how to use computers; at least one shares with a younger generation historic and traditional uses for plants and herbs.

They throw fund-raising breakfasts and make quilts for auctions.

They touch thousands of lives, make our city a better place and deserve our thanks.



Bush Trip Kindles Sneering Contest

JIM HOAGLAND



Syndicated Columnist

spread easily ... NATO was very much a joint enterprise."

I cite Gaddis here as guidance for dealing with the problems that did surface during Bush's trip. These can be overcome by using the histo-

rian's focus on the democratic roots both of the alliance and of America's leadership role in it.

The trans-Atlantic problems of the moment center on Washington's obsession with power politics, and on the determination in Europe to cling desperately to a sense of moral and cultural superiority over the continent's richer and militarily more powerful American progeny.

Bush protested mightily that he had not come to Europe as a unilateralist — even as he made it clear nothing the Europeans could say would change his views on missile defense or the Kyoto protocol on global warming.

For Bush, this may be largely a

matter of tactics. As he did with his tax cuts at home, he seeks to create an air of inevitability that shapes the entire negotiating process.

But such pronouncements reinforce a rapidly spreading stereotype that the United States sees itself today as too powerful to be bound by international codes of conduct and treaties that do not suit its current interests. Gulliver breaking loose from the bonds is a terrifying image for Europeans.

Paradoxically, it is Europe's increasing political integration and combined economic weight — in other words, its success — that seem to trouble today the very American critics who a few years ago were decrying the Europeans' fecklessness and financial sclerosis.

In this prism the Europeans bounce from being too weak to help to being too strong to cooperate, their only constant being deviousness in all things. It does not seem to matter that political and economic integration was encouraged by Washington and achieved under America's protective and light hand.

This last point — that American protection and guidance were essential to achieving a Europe whole, free and prosperous — is intellectual poison to those Europeans who have taken up rhetorical arms against a U.S. president they see as too morally callous, inexperienced and greedy to be a true leader of the Atlantic coalition. They have closed the books on George W. Bush before the opening chapter of his presidency has been finished.

They argue that American selfishness is rapidly replacing American democracy as the driving force in alliance matters. Refuting that argument, in deeds as well as words, is the overriding task for Bush and his administration. His predecessors on both sides of the Atlantic have given him a strong foundation on which to build.

Jim Hoagland's e-mail address is hoaglandj@washpost.com. Copyright, Washington Post Writers Group



"Why worry? our shield will protect you too!"

Bingaman Big Recipient of Oil, Gas, Electricity Money

When you become chairman of a key congressional committee it raises your profile, but it can also make you a political target.

Just ask Sen. Jeff Bingaman.

The New Mexico Democrat had been installed as chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee for just one day this month when Republicans lobbed a political grenade at him.

The Republican National Committee pointed out that the new energy committee chairman took hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign money from — you guessed it — energy companies.

"Where does Sen. Bingaman get his campaign cash?," a recent RNC news release asked. "Wind power? Solar power? Nope. Turns out Sen. Bingaman gets lots of cash from oil, gas, utilities, pipeline and mining interests — the same industries that Democrats have been attacking with campaign ads and endless rhetoric."

Of course, Democrats had hurled similar criticism at President George W. Bush, who benefited from millions of dollars in contributions from energy companies during the 2000 campaign. The Democrats still like to paint Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney as "big oil" men who cater to the industry at the expense of the environment.

MICHAEL COLEMAN



Journal Washington Bureau

Turns out Bingaman is a fairly "big oil" man himself, at least when it comes to campaign donations.

The Center for Responsive Politics, a Washington-based watchdog of money in politics, reported that Bingaman was the sixth leading recipient of oil and gas contributions in the Senate last year, taking in \$157,361. He also took in \$138,166 from electric utilities, and got another \$46,536 from mining interests.

The Center said Bingaman received a total of \$373,261 from energy and natural resources interests. Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., took in \$290,747 from the same industries, according to the Center's study. For more information about these and other

congressional contributions visit www.opensecrets.org on the Web.

The RNC stopped short of accusing Bingaman, who hails from a major oil and gas producing state, of letting the contributions influence his votes.

Bingaman has, after all, asked the feds to intervene on behalf of electricity ratepayers in California — not exactly the best way to win the hearts of electricity executives. The senator also opposes letting oil companies drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

RNC Spokesman Rudy Fernandez said Republicans wanted to point out the hypocrisy of recent Democratic political rhetoric.

"It's a criticism of the way Democrats play low-handed politics when it comes to the energy issue," Fernandez said. "Our point is that the Democratic National Committee and the Democratic political machinery out West misled the public into believing that the Democratic leadership has no ties to the energy industry."

Bingaman seemed unfazed by the RNC's attention.

"I really don't think it's an issue," Bingaman told me. "Certainly anything I have received from these industries (pales) com-

pared to what the RNC and their candidates, in many cases, received.

"They weren't suggesting I was voting in a way that reflected the contributions I received," Bingaman added. "I don't feel bound to take instructions from anyone."

...

Bingaman isn't the only New Mexico politician in Washington whose profile is getting a boost because of the energy issue.

Rep. Heather Wilson, R-N.M., was invited last week to join a special House energy task force created by House Majority Whip Tom DeLay, R-Texas. The task force, composed of five House members, is charged with crafting a long-term, comprehensive energy bill and getting it passed before Congress recesses in August.

Bingaman wants to craft a short-term solution to high gas prices and California's electricity crisis this summer, then press for a more comprehensive policy in the fall. Wilson said the focus should be comprehensive from the start.

"We can't settle for quick fixes," she said, adding that short-sighted policy got America into its energy mess in the first place.

The congresswoman said DeLay asked her to join the panel, called the Energy Action Team, because of her work on ener-

gy issues.

Wilson said last week that the panel will focus on four areas: increasing energy supply, improving conservation, strengthening and improving energy infrastructure (such as pipelines and transmission lines), and government reform.

She said House Republicans want to improve upon President Bush's comprehensive energy plan released last month. She said the plan is a good start, but should offer more incentives for conservation.

...

Domenici was recently named one of three Legislators of the Year by the National Mental Health Association. The association this month cited Domenici for his "extraordinary commitment and superb leadership" on the issue.

Sens. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., and Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., were the other two recipients of the award.

Domenici, who has a daughter who suffers from mental illness, has sponsored numerous bills related to mental health, most notably legislation that would force insurance companies to cover mental illness the same as physical illness. Domenici is currently trying to get that legislation improved.

Overheated Rantings Kill Spirit, Benefit of Debate

By JOHN BALZAR
Los Angeles Times

A month before the fatal needle was inserted into his leg, I wrote a column about Timothy McVeigh. I supported his execution on grounds of his own moral suicide, not as an act of public vengeance.

Next morning, I opened the first e-mail from a reader: "You deserve a needle, you %&."

Apparently I had not been zealous enough about the death penalty, and this anxious reader wished me into the hereafter with McVeigh.

Makes a fellow wonder about which side to choose.

A columnist's mailbag is a small window into things, sometimes illuminating, always entertaining. Also occasionally frustrating. For instance: Why is there so much blunt fury these days? Or, more to the point, isn't it about time to call bull on these bullies?

In my lifetime, I have seen both sides of the ideological spectrum run away with themselves. In the age of Vietnam, it was the left that screamed out its anger. On the fringes, radicals took to violence in the name of peace and civil rights. The killings at Kent State became the symbol of martyrdom. I didn't like it then.

In the years since and for longer than I care to remember, rage has bubbled on the right. Out on the fringes are the McVeighs and the anti-abortion radicals and the loonies in the Idaho panhandle. Waco is their symbol. Or Ruby Ridge. And I don't like it any better now.

But the fringes interest me less than the anger of your everyday upstanding defender of the American Dream.

When I wrote about the delight that other states are taking in California's energy woes, readers from other states rushed to underscore the point: "I hope you freeze in your (cold) hot-tub, you %&," said one well-wisher from Washington state.

When I noted that Nevada was

In the November election, George W. Bush was judicious with his promises. Restoring civility to America's civic debate was his most important. It was also his most ambitious — the biggest brawlers in the land are the very people carrying his policy agenda.

luring business investments with the promise of not sharing tax information with the IRS, an Arizona reader who signed his name with a PhD began: "You, one of the swine from the Union of California Socialist Republics, has zero right to complain about what happens in the neighboring country of America."

When I questioned whether our president was as compassionate in deed as in word, a reader gleefully hoped for recession because "as soon as ad revenues drop, your lazy, despicable, lying butt will be out the door."

My, my.

Well, for one, I welcome earnest argument. It cannot get too lively for me. I suppose that's self-evident in the character of a columnist. And I've worked abroad in countries where public disagreements were not permitted, where you got the equivalent of a needle in the leg for sounding off. So I'll take America.

But how about an America that isn't quite so dull-witted and venomous?

Verbal brawling of this sort is commonplace on so-called talk radio, not to mention on grade school playgrounds and in rougher saloons after midnight. But honestly, shouldn't we expect higher-caliber thinking among those who read newspapers and presume to be engaged with civic life?

If my mail alone was sprinkled with rantings that seem to be scrawled in the charcoal from a Neanderthal's fire, I'd be quiet. But it's not, of course. The language of the knuckle-dragger is too often a part of our nation's official proceedings. Read some of Trent Lott's

pugnacious statements, or listen to the fuming of Dick Army or Tom DeLay. Remember, these aren't fringe characters but congressional leaders and torch-bearers for the reigning party in Washington, D.C.

Time and again, they rile America's fears by demonizing government as our enemy. Never mind that government is school teachers, highway workers, soldiers, park rangers, air traffic controllers and others who bear little resemblance to this looming straw man of partisan creation. Perhaps it is little wonder that these ideas churn through a delusional mind like McVeigh's with tragic consequence. How far of a step is it, really, between attacking government and attacking government?

Who is to say that Congressman DeLay's exhortation to "transform our resistance into an aggressive counterattack" isn't read by someone as a call to arms? Might a person somewhere mistakenly think it patriotic to defend the country with a bomb when, as Army warns, the United States is on "that downhill slope" where "government becomes so large that it actually endangers the liberties it was instituted to protect"?

In the November election, George W. Bush was judicious with his promises. Restoring civility to America's civic debate was his most important.

It was also his most ambitious — for, as happens, the biggest brawlers in the land are the very people carrying his policy agenda.

Last week, Bush reported progress. "The tone is changing," he said. I hope he's correct. He has a



Artwork from Newsday by Bob Newman. Copyright © 1997, Newsday. Distributed by Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

closer vantage there in Washington than I do here on the other coast. All I can say is that I don't detect it in my mail yet.

But I wish the president resolute-ness in his quest. I hope he keeps after it with the same vigor he did

for tax cuts. It's a daunting job. Count me as an ally, Mr. Bush. And scores of my more thoughtful readers, too.

Strong argument makes us wiser. Civilized debate ennobles the idea of self-governance. Wit in our

national conversation helps us maintain perspective. Anger begets itself.

Knuckle-dragger language is too often a part of our nation's official proceedings.

LETTERS TO THE JOURNAL

'Crutch' Perpetuates Innumeracy

RE: "CALCULATOR'S Role in Teaching Aired" article

Though calculators have tremendously transformed our society by catalyzing the information age, this tool has too frequently become a "crutch" or a "black box" in the hands of students.

When calculators are introduced into the classroom, they become detrimental to human logic and thought processes because students trust the calculator to provide correct answers rather than thinking through problems themselves.

How many catastrophic errors/accidents occur everyday in the real world because human beings trust computer results without understanding or checking them? Despite the rapid advance of technology, we still have yet to create a machine that can think and create better than the human mind.

When we teach our physics courses, we encourage students to think independently of the calculator. In fact, when demonstrating problems on the board, we can nearly always estimate correct answers faster than students can compute exact answers with their calculators. With scientific notation, manipulating large numbers (as found in "real-world" problems) becomes almost trivial.

Too often, we see students incorrectly using the calculator and believing their answer "because the calculator says so," instead of actually examining the answer to determine whether or not it makes sense.

In our lab course, we have our students first plot data by hand (point by point and trend by trend) until they demonstrate that they understand the mathematics and can extract the underlying physical behavior. Then and only then are students allowed to use a computer to plot their results.

Mathematics preparation of our students is a national crisis. Calculators are useful tools only when students fully understand how to manipulate numbers in their head or on paper. When they are unable to do so however, we are doing both our students and our nation a great disservice (for the sake of "encouraging" more students to take math courses - how tragic) by allowing them to use a calculator as a crutch.

To illustrate our point: In one particularly sad case, one of the authors asked one of his college astronomy students to compute 6x4, and she immediately went to retrieve her calculator. When he stopped her from using the calculator, she proceeded to guess "32?" and "18?" before counting on her fingers to guess "24?" We would not want to put the future of our country in the hands of an illiterate generation, so why should we be willing to accept an innumerate generation?

MICHAEL PRAVICA
Assistant Professor of Physics
N.M. Highlands University
Las Vegas, N.M.

Editor's note: This letter also was signed by David Wood, visiting professor of physics at Highlands.

Put Real Teeth in Police Oversight

I MUST CONGRATULATE the Journal for reporting on police misconduct and separately on the powerless police oversight committee. These are connected to each and every one of us.

I recently moved from Los Angeles in time to see the beginning of the end results of an out-of-control police department. Twenty-two officers were eventually charged with various violations including planting evidence, brutality, lying under oath, and murder — and it is not over yet.

That city has determined it will eventually have to pay out hundreds of millions of tax dollars it does not have. It is still going to court to defend itself against often good people who were injured physically, financially and even locked up on trumped-up charges by a few bad cops. The unjust treatment was usually against minority citizens as is the case here in Albuquerque.

The situation deteriorated to the point that the Department of Justice is threatening to take control of the police force out of the hands of the local leaders.

Take a lesson, Albuquerque. I do not like having to pay for lawsuits from a few out-of-control officers who act like bullies and think their "parents," (taxpayers) will continue to clean up their messes.

These dollars would be better used in schools, parks and playgrounds. Yet the chief ignores efforts to discipline his officers, and we continue to pay court judgments and settlements. Perhaps if Chief Galvin continues to ignore the oversight recommendations on disciplining his officers, it is time for him to move to Los Angeles and let us find a chief who will serve and protect citizens instead of a few bad apples.

Their citizen review and oversight committee now has teeth, unlike the one here in Albuquerque. This city must give the oversight committee enforcement authority on police discipline or citizens may want to invite the Department of Justice in to take a closer look at our police force before this snowball also becomes an avalanche.

STEVEN VALDEZ
Albuquerque

LETTER GUIDELINES

Letters expressing opinions on news and commentary published in the Albuquerque Journal are welcome. Letters must include writer's signature, home address and telephone, and a daytime number. All letters and opinion articles are edited.

• Letters to the Journal, P.O. Drawer J, Albuquerque, N.M. 87103

Protecting Biodiversity

RE: "N.M. FARMS Could Face Oregon's Ruinous Fate" commentary by Norm Plank of the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau

I was saddened to see the Op-Ed predicting a "ruinous fate" for New Mexico farmers due to "federal bureaucrats abusing the Endangered Species Act." ...

First of all, the government is not abusing the ESA, but implementing it according to the courts' interpretation of this idealistic and out-dated law. As it is, the ESA calls for the protection of every species, and precedents have been set that prevent any one species from being considered less or more deserving of protection.

Therefore, it is irrelevant that water in the Klamath Basin is needed for the protection of economically important salmon, while Rio Grande water is needed for the endangered silvery minnow, Southwestern willow flycatcher, and interior least tern, among many other birds, fish, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, insects, and plants which depend on it.

Plank's accusation that the "federal government, in cahoots with radical environmental groups" is trying to ruin our farmers is ludicrous. While it is true that there are a handful of so-called radical environmental groups out there, the ones that are effective in influencing policy are the more moderate ones whose intent is to work with farmers to find a solution that will be acceptable to everyone.

Furthermore, must I remind everyone that we live in the desert? Water always has been and always will be a precious commodity here. As a result, we need to practice more rigorous water conservation techniques. I, for one, cannot understand why people who move here from greener parts of the country insist on bringing their lawns with them. If you want a green lawn, move back to where you came from; if you want to live in the desert, live in the desert!

It is laughable that (Plank asserts that) New Mexico farms "feed this nation and others around the world." Farm production in this state is negligible in the overall production of this country, not to mention the rest of the world.

Yes, the ESA does need to be changed. It has failed miserably to achieve its goal. But protecting our biodiversity is not anti-American. In fact it's the opposite. Part of being American is respecting the intrinsic value of the natural world, and rejoicing in the knowledge that specific national parks and species do exist, even if you never get to see them.

JENNIFER CLARKSON
Albuquerque



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Florida Law Stands Between Gay Guardian and Father's Day

By DOUG HOUGHTON
Progressive Media Project

When Oscar's biological dad asked me to take his son, he didn't ask whether I was gay. He wanted to know if Oscar would have a stable home, be wanted and loved.

That was almost six years ago. Oscar was 3 years old, and I was working as a nurse practitioner in the children's clinic at a hospital in Miami. Oscar's family had been bringing him in because of health problems since he was a baby.

He had already been shuffled in and out of three different homes and was now living with his dad, who had just become homeless again. His dad loved him dearly but knew he couldn't take care of all of his children. When he asked me to take Oscar, I agreed right away. I had thought about starting a family before, but that day my family found me.

To Oscar, his birth family and me, my sexual orientation had no bearing on the adoption. But to the state, it was all that mattered. Twenty-four years ago, Florida enacted the nation's broadest ban on lesbian and gay people adopting children. Two other states — Utah and Mississippi — ban us from adopting, and every year, other legislatures consider similar laws.

In Florida's eyes, I am Oscar's "guardian." But this Sunday we will celebrate our fifth Father's Day together — because in Oscar's eyes, and in his heart, that's who I am.

Later this year, Florida's ban on gay adoption will face its toughest challenge yet when

a federal lawsuit challenging its constitutionality goes to trial. I'm a plaintiff in the American Civil Liberties Union case because I want to adopt Oscar.

Tens of thousands of children wait to be adopted in Florida, and hundreds of thousands more around the country.

They are shuffled from one foster home to another, often until they turn 18.

People who favor keeping Florida's ban (and passing others like it) argue that children need both a mother and a father. But this doesn't reflect reality. Recent U.S. Census data show that millions of children are being raised by single parents, unmarried couples, gay people or extended families.

I can't say what every child needs, but I do know what Oscar needs: attention, love, guidance and support.

That's what he gets from me.

Not a single piece of credible evidence shows that being raised by a gay parent deprives a child of these things. The Florida law that prevents me from adopting Oscar is based on animosity toward gay people. It does not consider a child's welfare.

For years, Oscar felt unwanted and feared being abandoned. I've tried to calm his fears, but adopting him is the only way to show him that nothing will happen to our family. He needs that sense of security.

This weekend, Oscar and I will celebrate Father's Day as we have the last five years. We'll probably go to the beach and later go see a movie.

My wish this Father's Day is that it be the last I spend as his "guardian."

bull market for BUFFALO

from PAGE B1

ranch, shoot a buffalo and haul it away.

"The economics," Daniels said, "begin to make sense."

In the buffalo industry in New Mexico there is Ted Turner and then there is everybody else.

Turner bought the Ladder Ranch in Sierra County in 1992, got rid of its cattle and stocked the range with buffalo, building new pens and new fences. The herd there now stands at about 1,000.

He went on to buy the Armendaris Ranch and the Vermejo Park Ranch and put buffalo on each (1,400 on the Armendaris and 2,500 on the Vermejo at last count).

Turner, although he is rich enough to keep buffalo even if they don't make a dime, has always run his buffalo operation like a business, sending animals to the slaughterhouse and marketing calves and cows.

Like Turner, most buffalo owners in New Mexico do not derive their main income from the animals. They range from a retired El Paso Natural Gas executive with a herd of seven buffalo on 500 acres along the Mimbres River to a German industrialist with about 150 buffalo on a 20-square-mile ranch he owns outside Taos.

Healthy demand

Michael Decker, the son of cattle ranchers in the Springer area, left Colfax County to work in the high-tech industry in Denver for 20 years and came back after he was laid off in 1993.

Decker knew he wanted to leave the city behind and he had gotten interested in buffalo while attending the annual livestock show in Denver. So, instead of starting a cattle operation, he decided to try raising buffalo on a small ranch that shares a fence with Turner's Vermejo Park Ranch.

Decker has built his herd to 28 with his new calves. And he has seen the market for buffalo meat grow while watching the price of breeding stock plummet. His income is modest.

The price of a heifer has dropped from a high of \$2,000 to \$3,000 several years ago to \$700 to \$800 today. That is driven by the breeding that has gone on in the past few years: As the buffalo population has risen, the price has dropped.

But the price of meat has stayed steady because growing demand is keeping pace with growing supplies.

"There's a pretty good market for the meat," said Monte Fastnacht, who with his wife, Lana, raises buffalo and markets the meat. "We don't have any trouble selling it."

The Fastnachts keep a herd of about 100 cows on a ranch in their native South Dakota and 30 buffalo on leased pasture near Estancia.

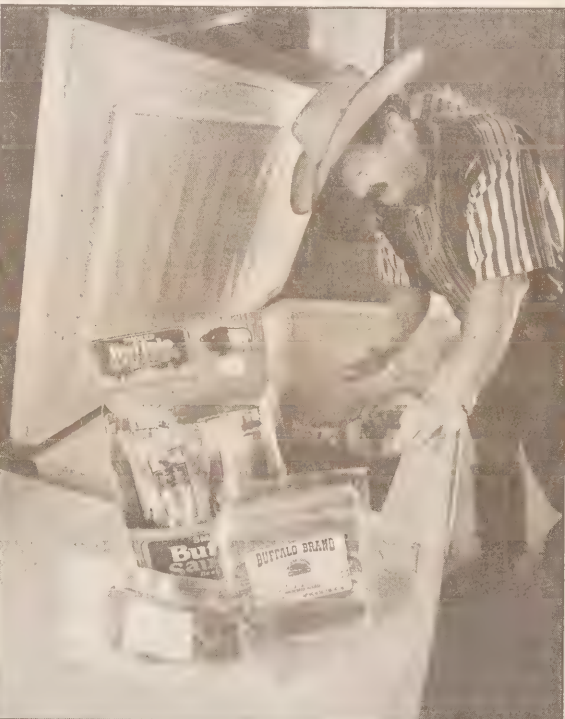
While trucking wood shavings for horse stalls is their main business, they have built a busy buffalo meat enterprise at their home in Bosque Farms.

Their LaMont's Wild West Buffalo is served in the Cowgirl Hall of Fame in Santa Fe and at Kelly's Brew Pub in Albuquerque in addition to three or four other restaurants and several grocery stores. It is also available by mail order.

Lana Fastnacht meets a



FRONTIER SCENE: These buffalo have returned to their ancestral land. Wagon Mound, pictured here, was named for its resemblance to the Conestoga wagons that passed along the Santa Fe Trail in what now is northeastern New Mexico. Buffalo helped to feed both Indians and pioneers along the way.



END PRODUCT: Monte and Lana Fastnacht's Wild West Buffalo — links, hot dogs, patties, steaks and roasts — fill freezers at their Bosque Farms home before they are delivered to businesses in Albuquerque and Santa Fe.

Northwest Airlines cargo jet at the airport in Albuquerque once a week and picks up 400 to 600 pounds of meat sent from their ranch in South Dakota. It has been slaughtered and packaged and packed in coolers. She delivers it to Albuquerque and Santa Fe — mostly burger patties, steaks, roasts and hot dogs.

The couple also operate a buffalo booth once a year at the Albuquerque Kodak International Balloon Fiesta, where they introduced a green chile and buffalo breakfast burrito — the "buffarito."

The Fastnachts want to eventually move their larger

herd to New Mexico so they can guarantee a ready stream of fresh meat. Like other buffalo ranchers, the Fastnachts believe that, when it comes to buffalo meat, supply drives demand.

"Once people try it and see how good it is for you, they want it," Lana Fastnacht said.

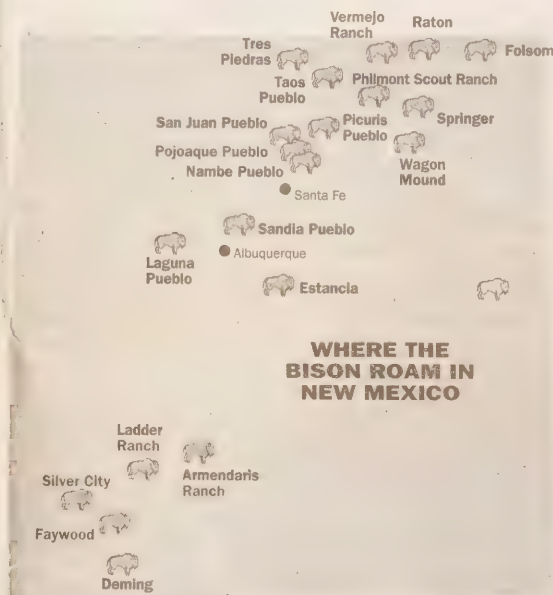
Buffalo meat has about one-fourth the fat of beef and pork and a little more than half the calories.

The pueblo connection

Health is one of the reasons New Mexico Indian tribes have begun developing buffalo herds. Representatives from New Mexico pueblos are lobbying the



WIDE-OPEN SPREAD: Harold Daniels, whose family has raised cattle in Mora County for 200 years, has taken to buffalo. He stands with part of his 150-head herd.



U.S. Department of Agriculture to incorporate canned buffalo meat into the food commodities program that ships nonperishable food to poor people.

"We're meat eaters," said Carl Tsosie, a member of Picuris Pueblo who is secretary of the nationwide Intertribal Bison Cooperative. "It's healthier, and with diabetes and everything we're trying to get away from red meat because it has all that fat in it."

Tradition, though, is a more compelling consideration for the six pueblos that have developed herds.

Pueblo Indians along the Rio Grande historically crossed the mountains and roamed across the eastern Plains to bring home the bounty that a young bull could yield: meat for the winter, bones for tools and tableware, skull, robe and tail for religious

purposes, hides for clothes and bedding.

Taos Pueblo has had a buffalo herd since the early 1930s, and Picuris, Pojoaque, Nambé, San Juan and Sandia pueblos have followed suit in recent years. Tesuque Pueblo is looking for pasture to start a herd. They will join about 50 other tribes across the country that hold about 25,000 head of buffalo.

At Picuris Pueblo, Danny and Joey Sam, a husband-and-wife team, take care of about 25 buffalo. The pueblo butchers two or three animals each fall, preserving the robes, bones, tail, head and horns for religious ceremonies and distributing the meat among pueblo members.

"It's a spiritually driven thing for us. It's not a money-making thing," Tsosie said. "It's the way it used to be."

ingorder by sealing the border with more agents and equipment.

"By building up walls, by putting up armies, by dedicating billions of dollars like every border state is doing to avoid migration, is not the way to go," President Fox has said.

Instead, Fox proposes working with the United States and Canada to allow the free movement of workers across borders. Fox's idea has received a lukewarm reception.

One idea both sides seem to agree on is creating a new guest worker program to provide more visas to immigrants to work legally in this country. Differences remain over whether the workers eventually would become permanent residents or be forced to return home once their jobs are done.

One other point of agreement: Illegal immigration will continue until Mexico improves its economy. Until that happens, the likelihood of a "safe and orderly" border seems remote, some say.

"For me, it would be a border that is not hostile, that is mutually administered by both governments, that would guarantee safe passage of people," says Isabel Garcia, an immigrant rights attorney in southern Arizona. "I think what (government officials) mean is just sealing it completely and then having people line up and seek permission to come here and be guest workers — to be exploited."

"Our definitions," she concludes, "are dramatically different."

Violence Is What Kids Fear

■ *Speaker at United Way luncheon says communities must create solutions for children*

BY PAUL LOGAN
Journal Staff Writer

Two-thirds of America's children say their greatest fear is violence, according to a recently released study.

Sesame Foundation, responsible for the television show "Sesame Street," conducted the study, interviewing youth, ages 9 to 12, at malls nationwide, said Betty Beene at last week's "Solutions Celebration 2001" at the Sheraton Old Town Inn.

She was the keynote speaker at a luncheon honoring the past year's efforts of United Way's partners, including labor unions and corporations — untold thousands of volunteers who helped people in need in the Albuquerque area. Nearly 400 people attended.

Beene said the survey asked youngsters a number of questions and also requested that they draw a picture of their greatest fear and write a description of the drawing.

An 11-year-old girl drew a hamburger shop with a child and a man, dressed in black, with a gun. She wrote: "I'm so afraid I'll be shot. That I won't die quick. That I will be in pain."

Beene wondered how Americans can live in a nation where children are concerned for their safety.

"I believe so strongly that (fear of violence) has to change," said Beene, former top executive of United Way of America.

The organization she once headed serves as an association for 1,400 locally governed United Ways. The Albuquerque-based United Way of Central New Mexico raises and distributes the resources necessary to solve and prevent human problems.

Any changes in the human condition, such as dealing with child and spousal abuse, must come community by community.

Communities must understand what the most challenging problems are and then figure out new ways to go about making the changes, Beene said.

"It simply requires thinking and giving and doing, doesn't it?" she said. "It's about doing it."

Beene said she was in Albuquerque to help volunteers understand the importance of their work and how giving of their free time has changed peoples' lives.

"A simple word defines what you have done and continue to do in this city," Beene said. "You are, in fact, a blessing."

Volunteers honored

During the luncheon, volunteer groups were singled out:

- Labor unions, such as the letter carriers, who collected 300,000 pounds of nonperishable food items for the needy; building/construction trades, who annually average \$20,000 for Dollars Against Diabetes; plumbers/pipefitters, who annually service furnaces and winterize air conditioners for 170 seniors' homes in the program, "Heat's On."

- "Make a Difference Day" — an annual event where more than 1,700 local companies' employees volunteer for organizations.

- "School to World" — a community partnership among business, education, nonprofits and government that provides possible career paths for youth. More than 2,000 eighth grade students participate.

- Technology to Recover Abducted Kids or TRAK — United Way and law enforcement provide a program to find missing children. Since it started in March, three children were reunited with their families through TRAK.

- "Success by 6" — a United Way initiative with community partners which is committed to healthy early child development and school readiness in Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance and Valencia counties. Forty-eight families learned to improve their parenting skills this year.

- And more than 200 volunteers who decided where the unrestricted United Way community funds were used for the most necessary and effective human services.

"The major purpose of this event is to thank groups and individuals for making our community a better place," said Jack Holmes of United Way of Central New Mexico.



BEENE: Volunteers are "a blessing"

Debate Over U.S., Mexico Border Turns To Safety

from PAGE B1

the border agree "safe and orderly" is a noble goal, but they disagree on how to define it, how to accomplish it and whether it's even a realistic pursuit.

"I'm way beyond even trying to conceive of controlling the border, because it's not going to happen," says Ray Borane, mayor of Douglas, Ariz., which was inundated with illegal crossers after more agents were stationed in California and Texas.

"They need to look at it in a way that is going to solve the problem, not try to contain it," Borane says.

Even before the Arizona tragedy, President Bush made border issues

a priority. The first foreign trip of his presidency was to Mexico to meet with President Vicente Fox. The two countries then formed a panel to deal with cross-border questions of migration and labor.

The theme of establishing a safe and orderly border — in Mexico, it's called "regularization" — has become paramount.

U.S. officials stress enforcement as the key.

Since 1994, when the government launched Operation Gatekeeper in San Diego as part of a multiyear strategy to funnel more agents and equipment to immigration hot spots, the number of Border Patrol agents in the Southwest has more than doubled to 8,802. Bush wants to hire another 1,140 agents over the

next two years.

Johnny Williams, western regional director for the Immigration and Naturalization Service, cites the San Diego effort as a model of how to restore order to border towns.

Before the influx of agents, "We were apprehending thousands and thousands of people," says Williams, chief of the San Diego Border Patrol sector in 1994-1997. "Now it is expected to be calm. We're seeing the deterrent effect."

His response to criticism is that the initiative is still "a work in progress." He also notes that apprehensions for the first eight months of this fiscal year have dropped 24 percent over last year.

Mexico, however, has long opposed the U.S. answer of restor-

ingorder by sealing the border with more agents and equipment.

"By building up walls, by putting up armies, by dedicating billions of dollars like every border state is doing to avoid migration, is not the way to go," President Fox has said.

Instead, Fox proposes working with the United States and Canada to allow the free movement of workers across borders. Fox's idea has received a lukewarm reception.

One idea both sides seem to agree on is creating a new guest worker program to provide more visas to immigrants to work legally in this country. Differences remain over whether the workers eventually would become permanent residents or be forced to return home once their jobs are done.



COURTESY SWANSON FAMILY

PREMIERE DANSEUSE: Ruth Pryor Swanson starred for years as a ballerina in Chicago. After leaving the stage, she ultimately retired in Albuquerque where she briefly taught youngsters.

'Swan Lake' Prima Ballerina Passes Away

■ *Star of Chicago opera company and owner of Cleveland dance school would have turned 95 this week*

By PAUL LOGAN
Journal Staff Writer

Ruth Pryor Swanson was the first prima ballerina in America to dance Tchaikovsky's famous "Swan Lake" in the 1930s, said Swanson's daughter, Janis Buckingham.

When Swanson starred for the Chicago Civic Opera Company, the Windy City was considered the center of ballet in America by the critics, Buckingham said.

Swanson died May 31 of congestive heart failure. She would have been 95 this Thursday.

After Swanson left the stage, she opened a ballet school in Cleveland, passing along her knowledge to many aspiring dancers for a quarter century. She even gave lessons to film star Leslie Caron.

Swanson once shared her studio with world renowned ballet dancer Rudolf Nureyev and his dance

troupe, her daughter said.

After her mother retired to Albuquerque in the mid-1970s, for a short time she continued to pass along her expertise to youngsters at a local dance studio.

All the while, the acclaimed dancer/teacher's former students kept in touch with their mentor in the Southwest, Buckingham said.

Swanson never stopped following the world of dance, especially ballet, her daughter said.

"She thought that the techniques they are teaching today are wonderful," Buckingham recalled. "She said they are producing more and more classical dancers. Also, dancers with variety — everything from modern jazz to ballet. She said they can dance almost anything now."

Diminutive in size at 5 feet, 105



SWANSON: Visited touring dancers performing at Popejoy Hall

pounds, Swanson could disappear in a crowd walking along Chicago's State Street.

But in her opera performances, the blond ballerina easily stood out, captivating audiences.

In the 1930s, Chicago newspapers lavished praise on their gifted, hometown dancer. Such as this excerpt from the stage news section of the Chicago Evening Post, which once asked, "Why is it that she is so different from the other dancers of the day?"

Then the reviewer answered the question: "Pretty, piquant and altogether charming ... just a natural dancer ... She has an aura about her that is very ethereal ..."

Vaudeville dancer

Ruth Pryor Swanson was 8 years old when she began taking dance lessons. By age 12, she was performing for pay as a ballet dancer at Chicago parties, Buckingham said.

Swanson left school at age 15 to work full time to support herself and her mother, prominent marine artist Florence Pryor Murphy. Her mother had become ill, possibly with anemia, and could no longer work.

Swanson and another ballerina formed "Dances From Here and There" and took the act on the vaudeville circuit along with their mothers. The talented teen-ager earned between \$500 to \$700 a week, Buckingham said.

She was 18 when she married Russell Wildey, a piano player. They formed a three-person act, "Blossoms," featuring her dancing, his playing and a female singer.

Swanson left vaudeville at age 21 and had her only child, Janis. They divorced six years later.

Swanson joined the opera company in 1929, and became "the swan queen" with Tchaikovsky's masterpiece in 1930.

Buckingham said one of her mother's scrapbook newspaper clippings said Swanson was called "the most beautiful dancer on the American stage."

In the early 1940s, Swanson went on tour with the opera throughout the Midwest. She married William Swanson in the mid-1940s. He died in Albuquerque in 1989.

Toward the end of the 1940s, Swanson toured the country as the star dancer in "Song of Norway."

After her retirement from the

stage, newspaper dance critic Ann Barzel wrote of Swanson:

"She was a golden-haired wisp of a ballet girl when she first stopped the show many years ago, and that show was Grand Opera. That was Ruth Pryor, and her performance in 'Dance of the Hours' in the opera 'La Gioconda' so enchanted the operagoers that they set up a great clamor for her to take bow after bow, while the prima donna and tenor waited."

Swanson went on to own and direct the Ballet Theater Dance School in Cleveland for 25 years. During that time, she also assisted in forming the Cleveland and Akron, Ohio, ballet companies.

Buckingham said her mother and her former pupils would often write and call each other. More than a half dozen ballet dancers visited with Swanson in her later years when they came to Popejoy Hall with touring companies.

"She was that loved," her daughter said.

Funeral services were held June 5 at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church.

Survivors include her son-in-law, Kent Buckingham, of Albuquerque.

Emancipation Celebration

During the Civil War, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in September 1862, freeing slaves in territory still at war with the Union. More than two years later, a handful of slaves in Texas learned of their freedom. From that has evolved Juneteenth, a celebration of independence held in many cities throughout the country.

In Albuquerque on Saturday, the celebration unfolded at the Thomas Bell Community Center and in Kirtland Park.

A group of participants was dressed as Buffalo Soldiers who formed voluntary all-black regiments during and after the Civil War. They visited with the crowd as part of the Juneteenth program that had a theme this year called "Protecting our

Freedom — Rights and Dignity."

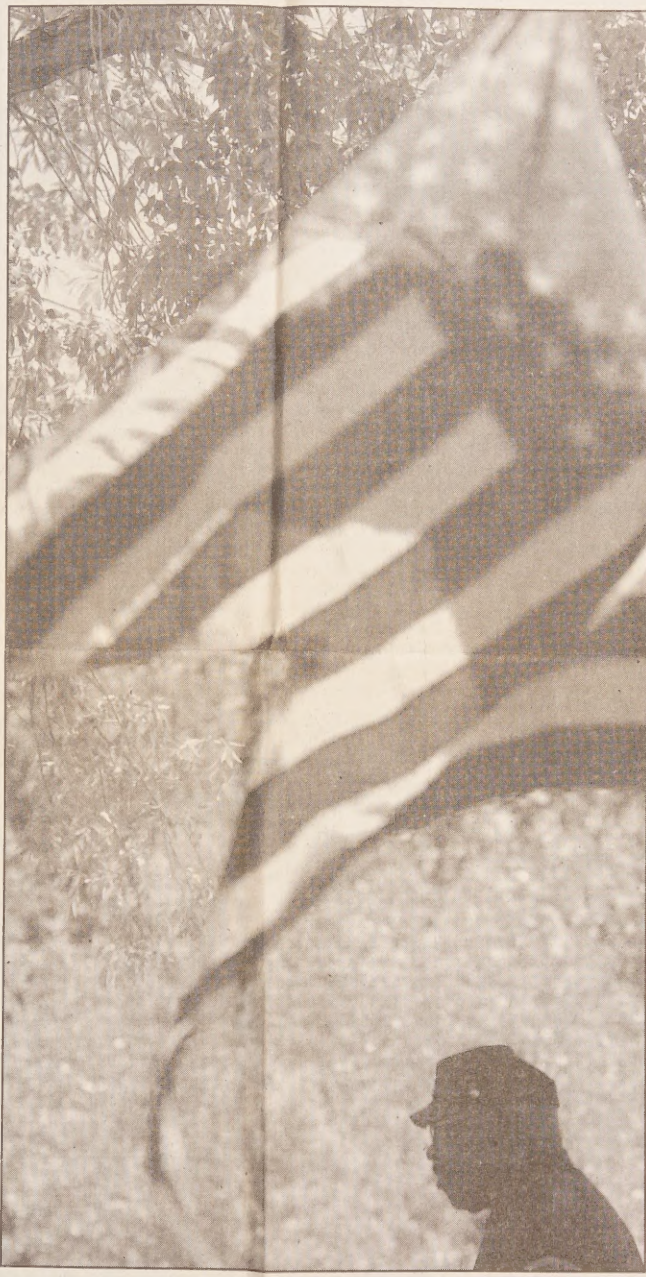
According to research for the National Archives and Records Administration by Walter Hill, the Buffalo Soldiers officially emerged in 1866, following the Civil War. Four all-black infantry regiments were formed, he wrote.

From that point forward, there was a black presence in the American army.

The Buffalo Soldiers went on to distinguish themselves in several campaigns, including fighting with Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders in the Spanish American War, Hill wrote. During World War I, many of the Buffalo Soldiers joined units being trained for combat in Europe.



Elsewhere at the Juneteenth celebration, Camara Cherry, 7, left, jams on the congas with friend Josef Powdrell, right, both of Albuquerque.



Among the events at Saturday's Juneteenth celebration was a group of Buffalo Soldier re-enactors at Kirtland Park in Albuquerque.

Raton Fire Threatens Town's Power

Up to 200 Acres Burn as Blaze Speeds Across Area West of Town

Journal Staff Report

SANTA FE — A fast-moving fire charged uncontrolled across rugged terrain west of Raton late Saturday, threatening a power line that supplies the town's electricity.

The Hobbs Fire, which had burned 150 to 200 acres by 7 p.m., was blazing on rocky terrain in Hobbs Canyon and had hopped into a nearby canyon known as Tinpan Canyon, Raton Fire Chief Dave Pasquale said.

The fire was moving at a pace of up to 10 acres an hour over terrain ribbed with a series of canyons. The next one in line — Coal Canyon, about 2 miles away — is home to the power line.

While the power line was not shut down Saturday evening, "that's our main concern at this time," said fire Lt. Randy Madison.

City Manager Eric Honeyfield called the power line "the backbone of our electricity coming into town, bringing the city's electricity south from the Arkansas River Power Authority. It serves only Raton."

The town has its own backup plant, he said, but it is shut down for boiler work and couldn't be started again until that work is finished sometime this week.

There is no settlement in the fire's immediate path, according to firefighters — although there are ruins of a handful of abandoned mining communities and a few ranch buildings.

But the fear that gusty southwest winds might shift pushed Pasquale to call for extra resources to stand by to protect homes and businesses in case the fire burned toward Raton.

Sherri Holiman Girona contributed to this report.

Two Dead After 3-Car Crash Near Santa Fe Opera

Journal Staff Report

SANTA FE — A three-vehicle accident on U.S. 84/285 just north of Santa Fe on Saturday afternoon killed two people and closed one side of the highway for several hours, officials and eyewitnesses said.

The crash happened just south of the Santa Fe Opera just before 5 p.m., killing the unidentified driver of a Pontiac and an unidentified woman in a Volkswagen Rabbit. The Pontiac, driven north on the highway, had a blowout and crossed the median, glancing off one southbound vehicle, then striking the Rabbit almost head-on, Santa Fe County Sheriff Ray Sisneros said.

The Pontiac's driver, witnesses told sheriff's investigators, was "driving recklessly, passing cars, even on the shoulder," Sisneros said. Then the Pontiac's right rear tire blew out, sending the car into a spin and into the southbound lanes, Sisneros said.

The Pontiac's driver had one passenger with him, possibly the driver's brother, who was taken to St. Vincent Hospital, said Sisneros. His injuries did not appear to be life-threatening.

Two unidentified people in the Volkswagen also were taken to St. Vincent. The woman died in surgery sometime after 8 p.m., the sheriff said, while the other person's condition was not available.

It was unclear what caused the erratic driving of the Pontiac's driver, Sisneros said.

The sheriff's department was still investigating the crash Saturday night. One couple whose car was struck by the Pontiac described the accident.

Retirees Perry and Gaula Lipkin, 64 and 63, of West Palm Beach, Fla., were on vacation driving back to Albuquerque from Taos in a rental car when a sedan crossed the median headed in their direction.

"He came over the divide and he hit us and he was going fast," said Gaula, who said she shouted a warning to her husband, who was driving.

"I responded (by pulling over) and that's why you're able to talk to us," said Perry Lipkin, resting on a guard rail. "He literally just ricocheted off us."

The Lipkins were not injured. Passers-by stopped to assist and the first ambulance arrived quickly, they said.

The wreck and its investigation closed down the southbound lanes of U.S. 84/285 at Tesuque for at least an hour.

Journal staff writer Morgan Lee contributed to this report.

Texas Adopts Restrictions on Teen-Age Drivers

By LAURA HEINAUER
The Dallas Morning News

AUSTIN, Texas — It used to be that 16 candles and a trip to a Texas driver's license office meant freedom on the open road. Future youthful drivers, however, may face a lengthier rite of passage.

A bill signed into law late Friday by Gov. Rick Perry will restrict Texas teens' passenger and nighttime driving privileges for six months after their 16th birthday.

Lawmakers' overwhelming approval of the measure came after failure in two previous legislative sessions and amid intense pressure from transportation and medical lobbies that argued that statistics show restricting teen driving saves lives.

The final version of the bill, supporters acknowledge, is much less than what they originally sought so much so that critics believe it will be difficult to follow and enforce.

"We didn't get everything we were after, but I can live with it," said Rep. Joe Driver, a sponsor. "I can live with it and, hopefully, so will many more young Texans."

Texas becomes the 44th state to pass a "graduated licensing" system.

Effective Jan. 1, 15-year-olds can still take driver's education and get a learner's permit, but they must hold the per-

"We didn't get everything we were after, but I can live with it. I can live with it and, hopefully, so will many more young Texans."

REP. JOE DRIVER, A SPONSOR

mit for at least six months. While driving, they must be accompanied by a person at least 21.

After their 16th birthday, students who passed the permit requirement move onto a second, six-month stage of restricted driving before graduating to full privileges.

During the new restricted period, 16- and 17-year-olds cannot drive between midnight and 5 a.m. except for job, school- or farm-related activities and medical emergencies. Additionally, the law does not allow drivers to ferry more than one person under age 21, except family members with parental permission.

Young motorcyclists face similar restrictions.

Violators can face a fine of up to \$500 for the Class C misdemeanor.

Predictably, some teens turn up their noses at the new restrictions.

"That's the stupidest thing ever," said 15-year-old J.J. Connor, as he hung out with a group of friends inside the Galleria. J.J., a freshman at Plano Senior High School this fall, won't turn 16 until April.

"Whoever heard of only one person at a time? I mean it's not like we don't have friends. ... That just ruined my summer."

Similar laws have caught on quickly in other states and have been credited with reduced teen crash and fatality rates.

According to the National Transportation Safety Board, a reduction of 10 percent or more in teen deaths has accompanied graduated requirement laws elsewhere in the country.

By comparison, teen traffic deaths rose during most of the '90s in Texas.

New Hampshire and California have passed tougher provisions requiring teens to verify they've had an additional six months of parental-supervised driving experience before moving to the restricted stage.

Some states don't allow driving after 9 p.m. and restrict people under age 21 from youth drivers' vehicles altogether.

Co-sponsor Driver said his motivation was the result of both personal and professional exposure to the dangers of teen driving as an insurance agent.

One case, involving a client's daughter, stands out in the lawmaker's mind.

What should have been a minor accident turned to tragedy when the young woman overreacted and overturned her SUV after a piece of a sprinkler system hit her windshield.

The resulting injury left her with brain damage so extensive that she had to retake much of her high school coursework, Driver said.

"As a parent, I hated to see her have to go through that," he said.

Many parents are ready to embrace the inconvenience that may arise from the new law's provisions limiting when 16-year-olds can drive.

Because of Caroline Vaughn's busy schedule, her mother, Susan Vaughn, is teaching her daughter the rules of the road rather than delegating the duty to a driving instructor. Texas is one of a few states that allow this.

Caroline is 16 and will be unaffected by the law's new six-month stage of restricted driving unless she doesn't get her license before Jan. 1.

As a single parent, Vaughn said the day Caroline can legally drive can't come soon enough. But she said the months of restricted driving would be worth it for safety's sake.

"Being that it's only six months, I wouldn't be all that opposed," she said. "They're teenagers. They'll figure out a way to make it work."

AROUND NEW MEXICO

Journal Staff and Wire Reports

Woman Found Dead In West Side Motel

A 23-year-old woman was found strangled in a West Side motel room shortly after noon Saturday, the Albuquerque Police Department reported.

Police received the call about 12:20 p.m. Saturday, from the Days Inn at Iliff and Coors NW.

"She checked in with a male companion (Friday) evening," said APD Capt. Sonny Leeper. "After checkout time, the maid checked the room and found the body and notified police."

The woman was found in a second floor room, fully clothed and lying on a bed, Sgt. Courtney Brazley told reporters at the scene.

"There was no indication or sign of struggle in the room," Brazley said.

The woman was an Albuquerque-area resident, Leeper said. The death is being investigated as a homicide, and her male companion was wanted for questioning by police, Leeper said.

The victim's name was not being released pending notification of her next of kin.

Police obtained a search warrant late Saturday afternoon and were continuing their investigation Saturday night.

SUV Driver Dies In I-25 Rollover

A Saturday afternoon automobile accident on Interstate 25 left one man dead and closed part of the freeway for a short time.

The accident occurred at about 2:20 p.m., said Sgt. Jack Jones, with the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department.

A man was driving his Ford Bronco southbound on I-25, south of the Rio Bravo exit, when he lost control of the vehicle.

"For some unknown reason, he veered left across the median and rolled his vehicle," Jones said.

The automobile came to rest upside down on the outside lane of northbound I-25. The man, who wasn't immediately identified, was wearing his seat belt and was trapped inside when rescue personnel arrived, Jones said.

The driver, the only person in the automobile, was pronounced dead at the scene, Jones said. No other motorists were involved in the accident.

Southbound I-25 was closed for about an hour after the accident; northbound I-25 was closed even longer while authorities investigated the incident and cleared the area.

Fed Aid To Protect Taos Battlefield

TAOS — A battlefield near Taos where the American Indians decisively defeated U.S. army troops will receive a federal grant to protect the historical site.

Carson National Forest will receive \$35,400 of a \$348,230 grant awarded this year from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program, which works to preserve battlefield sites on U.S. soil.

The grant will fund an archaeological dig at the site of the Battle of Cieneguilla, in which the Jicarilla Apache tribe defeated the 1st U.S. Dragoons in March 1854.

Forest archaeologists want to learn more about the American Indians' battlefield tactics at the time. The fight lasted only four hours.

"A site like this should be protected because it will tell both sides of the story," said Darlis Miller, a New Mexico State University professor emeritus and an expert on Western U.S. history.

Onion Growers Tout High-Quality Crop

COLUMBUS — New Mexico's onion harvest has gotten off to a good start with a high-quality crop and good prices, and perfect weather for harvesting, growers say.

"We're pretty well seeing sweetness across the board," said James Johnson, farm manager of W.R. Johnson and Sons near Columbus. "This is the sweetest crop we've ever had."

The farm, which raises the Carzalia Sweet onion, is harvesting excellent quality onions with good bulb sizes, Johnson said.

The farm's onions, which are in demand for their sweet flavor, will be shipped throughout the United States and exported to Europe and South America.

Dave Hicks, a partner and manager at Skyline Produce grading shed outside Hatch, said the shed is shipping 15 to 20 tractor-trailer loads of onions a day. Each load holds about 850 50-pound sacks.

"The crop looks good," he said.



▲ JIM THOMPSON/JOURNAL

Canada geese stroll along the bank of a pond while the crowd gathers for the opening ceremony of the Candelaria Wetland on Saturday. The wetland is part of the Candelaria Farm Preserve.



Autumn King, 4, breaks away from the crowd to take in the view of the five-acre Candelaria Wetland.

Water refuge

The five-acre Candelaria Wetland in Northwest Albuquerque officially opened Saturday.

The wetland is the latest restoration effort for the city Parks and Recreation Department's Open Space Division.

Located within the Candelaria Farm Preserve, the wetland takes advantage of several ecological factors. Situated along the Rio Grande flyway, the wetland attracts many species of birds that fly through the area on their migrations.

The wetland also will complement the deeper ponds available next door at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park, creating an array of surface water habitats. The farm and the wetland also are adjacent to the Rio Grande Valley State Park so they are linked to the bosque — a corridor running through the city along the river.

To protect wildlife, the Candelaria Farm Preserve is open to guided programs. A viewing blind in the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park's parking area allows visitors to closely observe the activities of shore and wading birds without disturbing them.

Visitors also will be able to observe the birds using the farm fields surrounding the wetland for food and shelter and crossing to and from the ponds at the Rio Grande Nature Center.

The new wetland is located just north of the nature center at 2901 Candelaria NW.

HOW YOUR CONGRESSMEN VOTED For week ending June 15

Contact Your Legislators at the U.S. Capitol

Zip Codes: House 20515, Senate 20510
Capitol Operator: (202) 224-3121

By Roll Call Report Syndicate

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HOUSE Joe Skeen (R) Tom Udall (D) Heather Wilson (R)

INVESTMENT FEES: Voting 404 for and 22 against, the House on June 14 passed a bill (HR 1088) to reduce or eliminate over ten years several Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) fees on investors and corporations, such as those on buying and selling securities and on mergers and tender offers.

The bill retains fees at a level needed to fund the SEC's budget, now \$400 million annually, but phases out those that pay general government expenses. It is projected to reduce revenue by \$8.9 billion between fiscal 2002-06. In addition, the bill provides SEC attorneys, accountants, economists and other employees with a major pay raise.

A yes vote was to pass the bill.

YES: WILSON, SKEEN, UDALL

SUDAN CIVIL WAR: Voting 422 for and two against, the House on June 13 passed a bill (HR 2052) to address Sudan's civil war between the Islamic fundamentalist government and Christian factions seeking independence and religious freedom. The bill requires companies doing business in Sudan to make Securities and Exchange Commission filings that disclose their dealings with the Islamic regime. While urging settlement of Africa's longest-running civil war, the measure condemns human rights abuses being inflicted on black Christians in southern Sudan, such as slavery, ethnic cleansing and the use of famine as a weapon.

A yes vote was to pass the bill.

YES: WILSON, SKEEN, UDALL

SENATE Pete Domenici (R) Jeff Bingaman (D)

EDUCATION BILL: Voting 91 for and 8 against, the Senate on June 14 passed a bill (S 1) that extends the 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for seven years with a new federal-state framework to hold local schools accountable for classroom results. It is projected to cost \$33 billion in fiscal 2002 and \$187 billion between 2002-08.

The bill launches President Bush's proposal that states conduct reading and math testing in grades 3-8 and in one high school year.

Following federal guidelines, states would choose their own tests and assessment standards. Schools that consistently fail to improve academically would face consequences ranging from the transfer of students to other public schools to the school being closed.

The bill prohibits the use of taxpayer-financed vouchers for private or parochial school tuition (next issue). But it allows parents of students in failing schools to use federal funds to pay for private tutoring or to enroll their children in another public school or a charter school.

A large share of federal education spending is delivered in the form of narrowly defined "Title I" grants to poor districts and disadvantaged students. The bill combines that approach with a GOP "Straight A's" plan under which 25 districts in seven states will be given leeway in spending Title I funds in exchange for positive academic results.

A yes vote was to pass the bill.

YES: DOMENICI, BINGAMAN

PRIVATE SCHOOL VOUCHERS: Voting 41 for and 58 against, the Senate on June 12 rejected a proposed school voucher program in ten cities at a cost of \$50 million annually over seven years. Under the amendment, students from poor families in failing public schools were to receive federal funds for transferring to the private or parochial school of their choice. The vote occurred during debate on S 1 (above).

A yes vote was to use taxpayer funds for private school vouchers.

YES: DOMENICI **NO:** BINGAMAN

BOY SCOUTS: The Senate on July 14 voted, 51 for and 49 against, to deny federal education funds to school districts that shut their doors to the Boy Scouts of America. The amendment to S1 (above) was in response to schools across the country now barring the scouts access because of their policy of not accepting homosexuals. The scouts' anti-gay policy has been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

A yes vote backed the amendment.

YES: DOMENICI **NO:** BINGAMAN

DISABLED STUDENTS: Voting 51 for and 47 against, the Senate on June 14 endorsed tougher school discipline for certain disabled students with disruptive behavior. This cleared the way for approval, on a non-record vote, of an amendment to S1 (above) allowing disabled students to be expelled, after a hearing, for conduct not attributable to their disability. At present, under the "mainstreaming" rationale of the Independent Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), misbehaving students with disabilities rarely face expulsion.

A yes vote backed stricter discipline for certain disruptive students with disabilities.

YES: DOMENICI **NO:** BINGAMAN

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